

**REMARKS**

**INTRODUCTION:**

In accordance with the foregoing, the specification has been amended to improved form, claims 23-25 and 47 have been amended and claim 49 has been added. No new matter is being presented. Proper support for the amendments to the claims can be found in the specification as filed and/or by the incorporated priority reference. Approval and entry of the foregoing amendments and new claim are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16, 23-33, 41-43, 45 and 47-49 are pending and under consideration.

**CONCLUSION:**

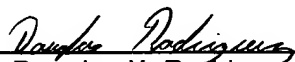
It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims patentably distinguish over the prior art. Thus, there being no further outstanding objections or rejections, the application is submitted as being in condition for allowance which action is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining issues to be addressed, it is believed that prosecution can be expedited by the Examiner contacting the undersigned attorney for a telephone interview to discuss resolution of such issues.

If there are any additional fees associated with the filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 503333.

Respectfully submitted,

STEIN, MCEWEN & BUI LLP

By:   
Douglas X. Rodriguez  
Registration No. 47,269

1400 Eye Street, NW, Suite 300  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 216-9505  
Facsimile: (202) 216-9510

Date: 12/06/04